

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system management method for associating at least a process object and at least a process ~~that should be executed~~ for each process object with each node in a tree structure, and operating each node based on the tree structure so as to manage the process object and the process, comprising:

~~a user registration step of performing a process for registering, in a memory,~~ a user ID to be uniquely assigned to each registered user that performs operations for a ~~general node corresponding to the process object or for a function node corresponding to the process,~~ and storing the user ID in a storing means;

~~a node number assigning step of uniquely assigning a node number to each of the general node and the function node, and storing the node number in the storing means by associating the node number with the general node or the function node;~~

providing a general node corresponding to the process object and a function node that is a program for performing a process;

~~a node setting step of setting the function node as a child node of the general node corresponding to the process object for which the process corresponding to the function node should be performed, and setting the general node as a parent node of the function node, and storing information of the set child node into the storing means~~ memory by associating the information with the general node that is the parent node;

~~an authority setting step of setting registered user operation authority~~ of each user ID ~~for each registered user~~ for each of the general nodes, and storing the registered user operation authority into the ~~storing means~~ memory by associating the registered user operation authority with the general node;

setting function node operation authority for each of function nodes, and storing the function node operation authority in the memory by associating the function node operation authority with the general node; and

~~a process execution step of, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by the registered user, causing the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the registered user operation authority, of the registered user requesting the process, set in the general node that is a parent node of the function node, and, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by any function nodes, causing the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the function node operation authority, of the function node that requests the process, set for the general node that is the parent node of the function node; and~~

~~in the authority setting step, providing a registered user in a general node with registered user operation authority including management authority for performing user registration for a predetermined node, and permitting the registered user to set registered user operation authority for other registered user within a limit of the registered user operation authority of the registered user.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The system management method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

~~in the authority setting step, setting, for each of the general node, non-registered user operation authority that is operation authority of a non-registered user that is not registered by the user registration step, and storing the non-registered user operation authority in the storing means memory by associating the non-registered user operation authority with the general node; and~~

~~in the process execution step, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by the non-registered user,~~ causing the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the non-registered user operation authority set for the general node that is the parent node of the function node, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by the non-registered user.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The system management method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

~~in a message sending step of~~ sending a message in which at least any one of the function node or the user is a sending origination and at least any one of function nodes is a destination, detecting presence or absence of execution of a predetermined event process at the sending origination, and sending the message received from the sending origination according to the detection result; and

~~in a receiving step of~~ receiving the message to the destination, when receiving the message, sending a message having the destination as a sending origination to the destination or causing the destination to execute a predetermined event process according to a condition that is set beforehand.

Claims 5-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The system management method as claimed in claim 4, comprising:

~~in the message receiving step~~, receiving only a message sent from a sending origination set in a predetermined access list.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A system management apparatus for associating at least a process object and at least a process ~~that should be~~ executed for each process object with each node in a tree structure, and operating each node based on the tree structure so as to manage the process object and the process, comprising:

~~storing means for storing~~ a memory configured to store each piece of information of a general node corresponding to the process object, a function node that is a program for performing ~~corresponding to~~ the process, and a registered user for operating the general node or the function node;

user registration means for performing a process for registering a user ID to be uniquely assigned to each registered user that performs operations for a node and storing the user ID in the ~~storing means~~ memory;

~~node number assigning means for uniquely assigning a node number to each of the general node and the function node, and storing the node number in the storing means by associating the node number with the general node or the function node;~~

node setting means for setting the function node as a child node of the general node corresponding to the process object for which the process corresponding to the function node should be performed, and setting the general node as a parent node of the function node, and storing information of the set child node into the ~~storing means~~ memory by associating the information with the general node that is the parent node;

authority setting means for setting registered user operation authority of each user ID ~~for each registered user~~ for each of the general nodes, and storing the registered user

operation authority into the ~~storing means~~ memory by associating the registered user operation authority with the general node;

function node authority setting means for setting function node operation authority for each of function nodes, and for storing the function node operation authority in the memory by associating function node operation authority with the general node; and

process execution means for, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by the registered user, causing the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the registered user operation authority, of the registered user requesting the process, set in the general node that is a parent node of the function node, and, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by any function nodes, causing the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the function node operation authority, of the function node that requests the process, set for the general node that is the parent node of the function node

~~wherein the authority setting means provides a registered user in a general node with registered user operation authority including management authority for performing user registration for a predetermined node, and permits the registered user to set registered user operation authority for other registered user within a limit of the registered user operation authority of the registered user.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The system management apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

the authority setting means includes means for setting, for each of the general node, non-registered user operation authority that is operation authority of a non-registered user that is not registered by the user registration means, and storing the non-registered user operation

authority in the ~~storing means~~ memory by associating the non-registered user operation authority with the general node; and

the process execution means includes means for, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by the non-registered user, causing the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the non-registered user operation authority set for the general node that is the parent node of the function node.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The system management apparatus as claimed in claim 9, comprising:

message sending means for sending a message in which at least any one of the function node or the user is a sending origination and at least any one of function nodes is a destination; and

receiving means for receiving the message to the destination,

the message sending means including means for detecting presence or absence of execution of a predetermined event process at the sending origination, and sending the message received from the sending origination according to the detection result, and

the receiving means including means for, when receiving the message, sending a message having the destination as a sending origination to the destination or causing the destination to execute a predetermined event process according to a condition that is set beforehand.

Claims 13-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The system management apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the message receiving means includes means for receiving only a message sent from a sending origination set in a predetermined access list.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium including a program, which when executed by a computer causes the ~~for easing a computer to perform a system management process method~~ for associating at least a process object and at least a process ~~that should be~~ executed for each process object with each node in a tree structure, and operating each node based on the tree structure so as to manage the process object and the process, the ~~program causing the computer to perform~~ method comprising:

~~a user registration step of performing a process for~~ registering, in a memory, a user ID to be uniquely assigned to each registered user that performs operations for a ~~general~~ node corresponding to the ~~process object or for a function node corresponding to the process, and~~ storing the user ID in a ~~storing means~~;

~~a node number assigning step of uniquely assigning a node number to each of the general node and the function node, and storing the node number in the storing means by associating the node number with the general node or the function node;~~

providing a general node corresponding to the process object and a function node that is a program for performing a process;

~~a node setting step of~~ setting the function node as a child node of the general node corresponding to the process object for which the process corresponding to the function node should be performed, and setting the general node as a parent node of the function node, and storing information of the set child node into the ~~storing means~~ memory by associating the information with the general node that is the parent node;

~~an authority setting step of~~ setting registered user operation authority of each user ID  
~~for each registered user~~ for each of the general nodes, and storing the registered user  
operation authority into the ~~storing means~~ memory by associating the registered user  
operation authority with the general node; [[and]]

setting function node operation authority for each of function nodes, and storing the  
function node operation authority in the memory by associating the function node operation  
authority with the general node; and

~~a process execution step of, when execution of the process corresponding to the~~  
~~function node is requested by the registered user,~~ causing the function node to execute the  
process only when the process is permitted by the registered user operation authority, of the  
registered user requesting the process, set in the general node that is a parent node of the  
function node, and, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is  
requested by any function nodes, causing the function node to execute the process only when  
the process is permitted by the function node operation authority, of the function node that  
requests the process, set for the general node that is the parent node of the function node

~~the authority setting step including a step of providing a registered user in a general~~  
~~node with registered user operation authority including management authority for performing~~  
~~user registration for a predetermined node, and permitting the registered user to set registered~~  
~~user operation authority for other registered user within a limit of the registered user~~  
~~operation authority of the registered user.~~

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): A system management apparatus for associating at least a process  
object and at least a process executed for each process object with each node in a tree

structure, and operating each node based on the tree structure so as to manage the process object and the process, comprising:

a memory configured to store each piece of information of a general node corresponding to the process object, a function node that is a program for performing the process, and a registered user for operating the general node or the function node;

a user registration unit configured to perform a process for registering a user ID to be uniquely assigned to each registered user that performs operations for a node and store the user ID in the memory;

a node setting unit configured to set the function node as a child node of the general node corresponding to the process object for which the process corresponding to the function node should be performed, and set the general node as a parent node of the function node, and store information of the set child node into the memory by associating the information with the general node that is the parent node;

a authority setting unit configured to set registered user operation authority of each user ID for each registered user for each of the general nodes, and store the registered user operation authority into the memory by associating the registered user operation authority with the general node; and

a process execution unit configured to, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by the registered user, cause the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the registered user operation authority, of the registered user requesting the process, set in the general node that is a parent node of the function node, and, when execution of the process corresponding to the function node is requested by any function nodes, causing the function node to execute the process only when the process is permitted by the function node operation authority, of the function node that requests the process, set for the general node that is the parent node of the function node.